

Nikki Moore, a student under the direction of Barren Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Joni Edwards is on her way to becoming a successful young woman and healthy as well. Nikki, a cancer survivor, was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of eight.

"One day, I left the 2nd grade and didn't come

back. I was 10 years old when I got to go back to school," says Nikki. "The tumor that I had was not something they had seen before except in Europe."

Nikki was taken to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital where over time she would undergo surgery, four inpatient chemotherapy treatments; 7 ½ weeks of radiation treatments; four outpatient chemotherapy treatments and various check-ups. She says they gave her "everything they thought my body could stand. They tried to remove my tumor and were able to get out 90 to 95 percent of it."

Today, at nineteen years of age, Nikki is cancer free and has been since 1995.

While a cancer patient, Nikki remembers how wonderful her nurses were in taking care of her.

"I do remember the nurses because they became my friends," says Nikki. "Even after the whole treatment was over, when I went back for check-ups, we would all go out to eat together."



Nikki wants to become a Pediatric<mark>s Nurse in a larger hospital like.</mark>
Vanderbilt or Kosair Children's Hosp<mark>ital in Loui</mark>sville.

"When I became sick, it was then that my desire to become a nurse surfaced," says Nikki. "I remember how they were to me and I want to be that way to someone else."

Along the way, she found out about the health sciences program through an orientation given by Barren Co. ATC Principal Hal Toms. Additionally, her stepmother Wendy Moore is an RN at the TJ Samson Community Hospital in Glasgow and has worked with Joni Edwards in helping to set up clinical

rotations for students.

Currently involved in a practicum at the Barren Co. Health Care Center, Nikki is enrolled in Joni Edwards Medicaid Nurse Aide class.

"Students are required to take 16 hours of long term care skills training in a clinical environment," says Edwards. "Nikki has been a student of mine for the past two years; is a hard worker and very mature for her age. She will make a wonderful nurse."

"In this long term care environment, I've learned that it's



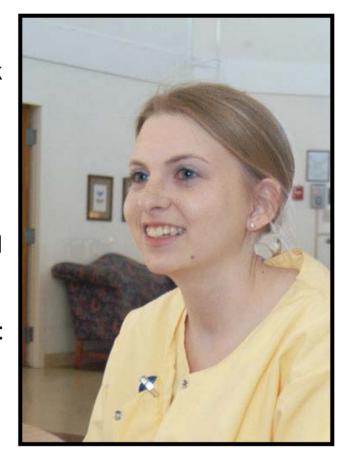
important to remember that the residents and patients are people too – even if you have 15 beds to make in 10 minutes," says Nikki. "I think the program at the area technology center is a great opportunity for someone to decide if they want to go into nursing or not."

A senior at the Barren Co. HS, this year has been anything but normal. Just before Christmas, a lady from Vanderbilt Hospital called to invite her to a holiday party at the Opryland Hotel. She informed Nikki that Gretchen Wilson, a country music singer, would be a special guest at the party.

"We also knew that the TJ Martell Foundation out of Nashville and Chevrolet were going to sponsor the party," says Nikki. "When my

mother, brother and I arrived in Nashville, we saw a big truck full of cars in front of the hotel. One of the cars was decorated with a big bow. We really didn't think too much about it at the time and went into the party. We were also told that the party was going to be taped."

The T.J. Martell Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to raising funds for the innovative initial and ongoing research into the treatments and cures of leukemia, cancer and AIDS, collaborated with Vanderbilt-Ingram



Cancer Center by asking them to pick ten cancer survivor patients between the ages of 19-30. Chevrolet partnered with the Martell Foundation by donating 10 new Chevy Cobalts for the selected honorees.

"There were thousands of names and I was one of them," says Nikki. "Of course, we didn't believe it at first. Then we realized it

was for real. They took the 10 survivors and put us around a 2005 Chevy Cobolt. Gretchen Wilson made the announcement. It was quite an event and we were featured during 'America's Party with Ryan Seacrest' New Year's Eve on Fox."

The T.J. Martell Foundation paid all the taxes on each of the ten cars and also paid for each family to stay at the Opryland Hotel for that evening. It's something Nikki and her family will never forget.

"I was just beside myself. I was in shock," says Nikki. "I remember thinking that I'm not going to believe it until the keys are in my hand and I'm driving the car."

Barren Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Joni Edwards (left) goes over patient information with Jolene Isenberg, RN. Isenberg was in the very first health careers class (not taught by Edwards) in Barren Co and went on the Glasgow School for Health Occupations to get her LPN. Her husband is now director of the school.

On February 21, Nikki was presented the keys to her very own 2005 Chevy Cobolt. Her black car came complete with sunroof, stereo and seven speakers, heated seats, On-Star, leather interior, spoiler and sports package.

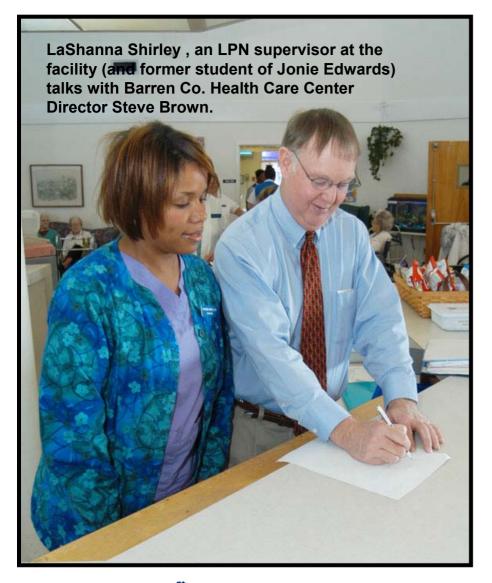
These days, Nikki drives to school in style. Upon graduation, she plans to attend Western Kentucky University and study nursing.

"Because of this program at the area technology center, I know that this is what I want to do," says Nikki. "Ms. Edwards is an inspiration to me because I know she was meant to do this kind of work."

From Left – Nikki Moore and Instructor Jonie Edwards pose for a class photo with former graduates of the program who now work at the Barren Co. Health Care Center.









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Editor's Note: Joni Edwards was employed by the Oldham Co. ATC for three years and has been a health sciences instructor at the Barren Co. ATC for 16 years. While visiting the Barren Co. Health Care Center, we were able to meet and talk with many staff members who had either been taught by Joni Edwards or been able to help her with current student training. It was refreshing to see how much of a positive impact this teacher has had on so many lives.

It was also a treat to meet Mr. Steve Brown, the facility administrator.

"These young folks bring lots of enthusiasm to our patients and we as providers enjoy their openmindedness and suggestions," says Brown. "This is a great experience for both sides because it makes all of us as individuals re-evaluate ourselves."

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